CLAIMS

1. A device for loosening a threaded lid from a correspondingly threaded container, comprising a body, first and second flexible belts carried by the body and forming first and second loops for engaging around the lid and the container respectively, the belts being arranged to be relatively displaceable such that the first and second loops grip the lid and the container respectively, the belts further being arranged to be displaceable by an actuating means such that the first and second loops apply oppositely directed torques to the lid and container respectively whereby the lid is rotated on the container in a loosening direction.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the loosening of the lid is achieved by the rotation of both of the loops relative to the body, in opposite directions.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating means comprises two contra-rotatable shafts, one end of the first belt being attached to one of the shafts and one end of the second belt being attached to the second of the shafts, the second ends of the two belts being attached to the body.

4. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second ends of the belts are attached to the body via respective resilient means.

5. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the contra-rotation means comprises a gear system, comprising two meshed spur gears.

6. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating means comprises a rotatable shaft having two circumferential surfaces around which the first and second belts may be selectively wound in opposite directions.

7. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuating means causes the loops to be rotated relative to one another by virtue of at least one end of each loop being drawn between a pair of rollers, or by being drawn by a block moved by a lever or a rack and pinion gear assembly.

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the actuating means comprises a block to which an end of each of the two belts is attached, there being further provided a displacing means for displacing the block.

9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the other ends of the belts are attached to the body via respective resilient means.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the two resilient means are attached to the body via respective anchor posts.

11. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the positions of the anchor posts on the body are moveable, whereby the sizes of the loops may be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of container/lid.

12. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the displacing means comprises a pinion gear rotatably mounted to the block, which pinion gear engages with a rack gear provided in the body, the pinion gear being rotatable by a turning means.

13. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the displacing means comprises a bar connected to a lever.

14. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating means comprises a ratchet mechanism such that the device may be operated by rotating the shaft in alternating directions.

15. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a tongue adapted to stabilize the container from which the lid is being removed by engaging with the container.

16. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belts are thin metal belts having a coating of a friction material.

17. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a handle connected to or incorporating the body.

18. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the loosening of the lid is achieved by the rotation of only one of the loops relative to the body, the other loop serving to prevent rotation of the lid or the container relative to the body.